

## Legislative Breakfast a Huge Success

Hello HCEA Members!

On Saturday morning I attended HCEA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Breakfast. In attendance were many teachers and paraprofessionals from HCPSS, student members of the future teachers' association from Oakland Mills High School, all seven members of the Board of Education, County Executive Ken Ulman, Senator Jim Robey, Senator Ed Kasemeyer, Delegate Liz Bobo, Delegate Frank Turner, County Council Chairperson Courtney Watson and Council Members Mary Kay Sigaty and Greg Fox.

The theme for the morning was "Our Plate Is Full". (At the last rep council meeting, school reps wrote on paper plates the many and various tasks and duties we are asked to perform, and these plates were displayed.)

The elected officials and the Board of Education members were randomly assigned to tables and there was a 45 minute table discussion with them regarding the following topics: workload, class size, recruitment and retention of staff, closing the achievement gap, funding next year's 5% cost of living adjustment.



*Delegate Frank Turner, Senator Ed Kasemeyer and HCEA Government Relations Co-Chair Rich Corkran discuss issues at the HCEA legislative breakfast.*



*HCEA Board Member Estelle King talks with County Executive Ken Ulman and Board of Education member Janet Siddiqui.*

We let them know exactly how we felt about these issues and then elected official reported out to the entire group the issues and concerns discussed at their table.

I just wanted to let you know that the Howard County Education Association is continuously working on your behalf to make things better for children as well as staff!

Veeda Gaines  
Special Education Team Leader  
Stevens Forest ES



## Para Pro

Two dozen Para Educators participated in HCEA's workshop to help prepare for the upcoming Para Pro test. The HCBOE will pay a one time \$500 stipend to Para Educators who meet the requirements for "Highly Qualified" status under the federal No Child Left Behind Act. A passing score on the Para Pro test is one way to qualify. The next test will be offered on March 15. The registration deadline is February 21. HCEA will again be offering a workshop to help participants prepare for the test, check the HCEA website at [www.hceanea.org](http://www.hceanea.org) for details.

## National Board Certification

Would you like to earn the highest honor that a teacher can earn – National Board Certification? National Board status can open new doors for you professionally and personally. Become a member of a growing group of professional educators who have challenged themselves at the highest levels.

HCEA and the Office of Professional and Organizational Development have joined together to support and promote National Board Certified Teacher Candidates. We have worked together to provide monthly interest and information meetings in hopes to increase the number of candidates.

Learn about the process for applying for National Board Certification (NBC), scholarship information, and the support that would be available to you as an NBC candidate. Upcoming informational meetings are: February 28, March 27 and April 7. All meetings are held from 4:30PM – 6PM at the Faulkner Ridge Center, 10598 Marble Faun Court in Columbia. Pizza and beverages are provided by HCEA. To RSVP to an informational meeting contact Shannon Keeny at [Shannon\\_Keeny@hcpss.org](mailto:Shannon_Keeny@hcpss.org). For additional information about NBC, visit [www.nbpts.org](http://www.nbpts.org).

## Dates to Remember:

Call HCEA to register for events.

### MSTA Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast And Minority Recognition Awards

January 19

### NEA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference

January 24 – 26

### MSTA Para Professional Development Day

February 16

### Deadline to Register for March ParaPro Test

(to register contact [www.ets.org.parapro](http://www.ets.org.parapro))

February 21

### ParaPro Test

March 15

### Deadline to file for HCEA Election

February 1

## HCEA Elections

HCEA members will soon elect five HCEA Directors (two year terms), one HCEA Director (one year term) and 25 delegates to the NEA Convention in Washington, D.C. Elections for delegates to the MSTA convention will be held later in the year.

Nominations for office will open at the Rep Council on January 15th and will be taken until 4PM on Friday, February 1st. Ballots will be sent to the schools on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and the elections will be conducted from February 22<sup>nd</sup> through March 7<sup>th</sup>. All ballots must be in the HCEA office by 4PM on Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in running for the Board of Directors or Delegate to the NEA convention or if you have any questions contact HCEA at 410-997-3440.

## HCEA Marketplace

### General Services

**Music for your Event:** Musical ensembles, including string quartets, available for your wedding, reception, parties etc. References available upon request. Please email [RLather@verizon.net](mailto:RLather@verizon.net)

### Vacation Rentals

**Deep Creek Lake:** "Almost lakefront" 3 BR rancher as close to lake front as you can get with lake access. "Almost lakefront" has a hot tub, dock slip at community dock, beautiful great room with stone fireplace. Sit on the deck and watch the sunset and wildlife or enjoy a fire and great lake views. Located only minutes from lake and ski activities. Weekend or weekly rentals and discount given to Howard County teachers and staff. Call Chuck or Candy Fales @410-379-6057

**Ocean City Condo Rental:** 2 story, 2 BR, 2 BA, sleeps 8. Discount for HCPS staff! Fall and winter rentals available! Call Kecia (410) 241-9005

**Fall and Winter Beach Rental Ocean City, MD:** Home away from home! 2 story, 2 BR, 2 BA. Easy walk to the beach! Discount for HC staff. Call Kecia @ 410-241-9005

**Woods Resort - Hedgesville, WV:** (90 miles from Balt. & Wash.) Private house for rent. Weekend or weekly rental. 3 BR, 2 BA, fireplace, AC, cable/TV/VCR, fully equipped kitchen, sunroom and deck nestled in a beautiful wooded area. Golfing, swimming (indoor & outdoor), tennis, biking, hiking. Sleeps 6. Call 410-465-4087.

**Deep Creek Lake:** 5 BR. log cabin chalet; fully furnished; all amenities included; minutes from WISP Ski resort; 30% discount to HCEA members; weekend or weekly rental. Call Dan @ 410-465-5190.

### Employment

**Pool Supervisors, Managers:** Summer job openings for swimming pool field supervisors and managers (Full or part time). No experience necessary. Call David Watts, DRD Pool Management, Inc. @ 410-785-7665 or e-mail [dwatts@drdpools.com](mailto:dwatts@drdpools.com).

**Camp Seeks Head Counselors, Instructors:** Boating, campcraft, drama, singing, nature, physical education, art and swimming. Beth Tfiloh Camp in Owings Mills runs Mon-Fri from 9am-4pm for 8 weeks (June 25 – Aug 17). Visit our website at [www.btcamps.org](http://www.btcamps.org) or phone 410-517-3451. Your child attends free!

## Teacher Association Advocate Running for Carroll County Board of Education

If you are an HCEA member living in Carroll County or have family or friends who live and vote in Carroll please consider supporting Barry Potts in his race for Carroll County Board of Education. Barry is currently a member of the MSTA Board of Directors and President of the Carroll County Education Association. Barry has been endorsed by CCEA and is a tireless advocate for teachers and public education. Barry will bring a valuable "educator's" perspective to the Carroll Board. Election day is Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions about Barry's campaign contact him at [barryduanepotts@yahoo.com](mailto:barryduanepotts@yahoo.com).

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